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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicants: H.P. Zenner et al.

Attorney Docket No.: OTAG116944

Application No.: 09/530,693

Group Art Unit: 1653

SEP 26 2001

Filed: July 3, 2000

Examiner: F. Moezie

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Title: APPLICATION OF VASOPRESSIN ANTAGONISTS FOR TREATING  
DISTURBANCES OR ILLNESSES OF THE INNER EAR

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Seattle, Washington 98101

September 21, 2001

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed on August 24, 2001 (Paper No. 8), applicants elect the claims of Group II (Claims 9-13) for initial examination in this application. Election is with traverse, and is without prejudice to the applicants' right to prosecute the non-elected subject matter in a subsequent patent application.

Applicants note that all of the pending claims are directed to methods of treating disturbances or illnesses of an inner ear, and include the step of administering at least one vasopressin receptor antagonist, or mixtures of such antagonists, to a patient in need thereof. In some embodiments, the vasopressin receptor antagonist is a peptide. In some embodiments, the vasopressin receptor antagonist is a non-peptide organic substance. Applicants respectfully submit that the Restriction Requirement is improper because it would not impose an undue

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burden on the Examiner to conduct a search of the claimed invention that includes the use of any vasopressin receptor antagonist, including peptides or non-peptide organic substances.

Respectfully submitted,

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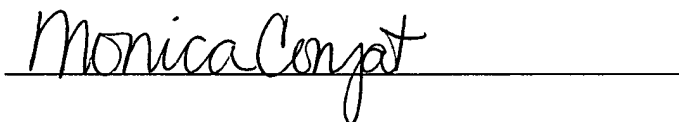


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the below date.

Date: September 21, 2001

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